

# Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

2023 Reporting Week 19: May 7 — May 13



This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

## COVID-19 Trends

During Week 19, COVID-19 levels for Okaloosa plateaued.

On April 19, 2023, the CDC issued a [media statement](#) focusing on simplifying COVID-19 vaccine recommendations. Please visit the media statement for information regarding vaccination of young children and alternatives to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

As of May 11, 2023, the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) Declaration will end. According to the CDC, most tools like vaccines, treatments, and testing will remain available, but some tools, like certain data sources and reporting, will change. For more information on upcoming changes, please visit the [CDC website dedicated to the end of the PHE Declaration](#).

**\*\*NEW\*\*** With the discontinuation of the COVID-19 PHE, the Community Level has been retired. As a replacement, COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level will be used as an indicator for recommended interventions in the community. For more information on the levels and recommended actions based on the current level, please visit the [CDC COVID-19 by County](#) webpage. The current COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level is listed below.

## ILI Trends

Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Okaloosa decreased for Week 19, and remains in line with the normal average for this period, although elevated (current level: 2.42%; normal average: 2.0%). Please stay vigilant, promote vaccination, and visit the weekly [Florida FLU REVIEW](#).

## Contact Us:

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# COVID-19 Snapshot

## Week 19 Hospital Admission Level

New COVID-19 Hospital Admissions per 100K Population per Week	HIGH	≥ 20.0
	MEDIUM	10.0 - 19.9
	LOW	<10.0

**LOW**

**PREVIOUS WEEK COMMUNITY LEVEL (retired): LOW**

The Community Level has been retired with the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

As a replacement, COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level will be used as an indicator for recommended interventions in the community based on each level and individual or community focus.

For more information on the levels and recommended actions based on the current level, please visit the [CDC COVID-19 by County](#) webpage.

## Week 19 Community Transmission Level

COVID-19 Community Risk Level	New Cases per 100K Population per Week	% Positivity per Week
<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>7.1%</b>

**PREVIOUS WEEK RISK LEVEL: MODERATE**

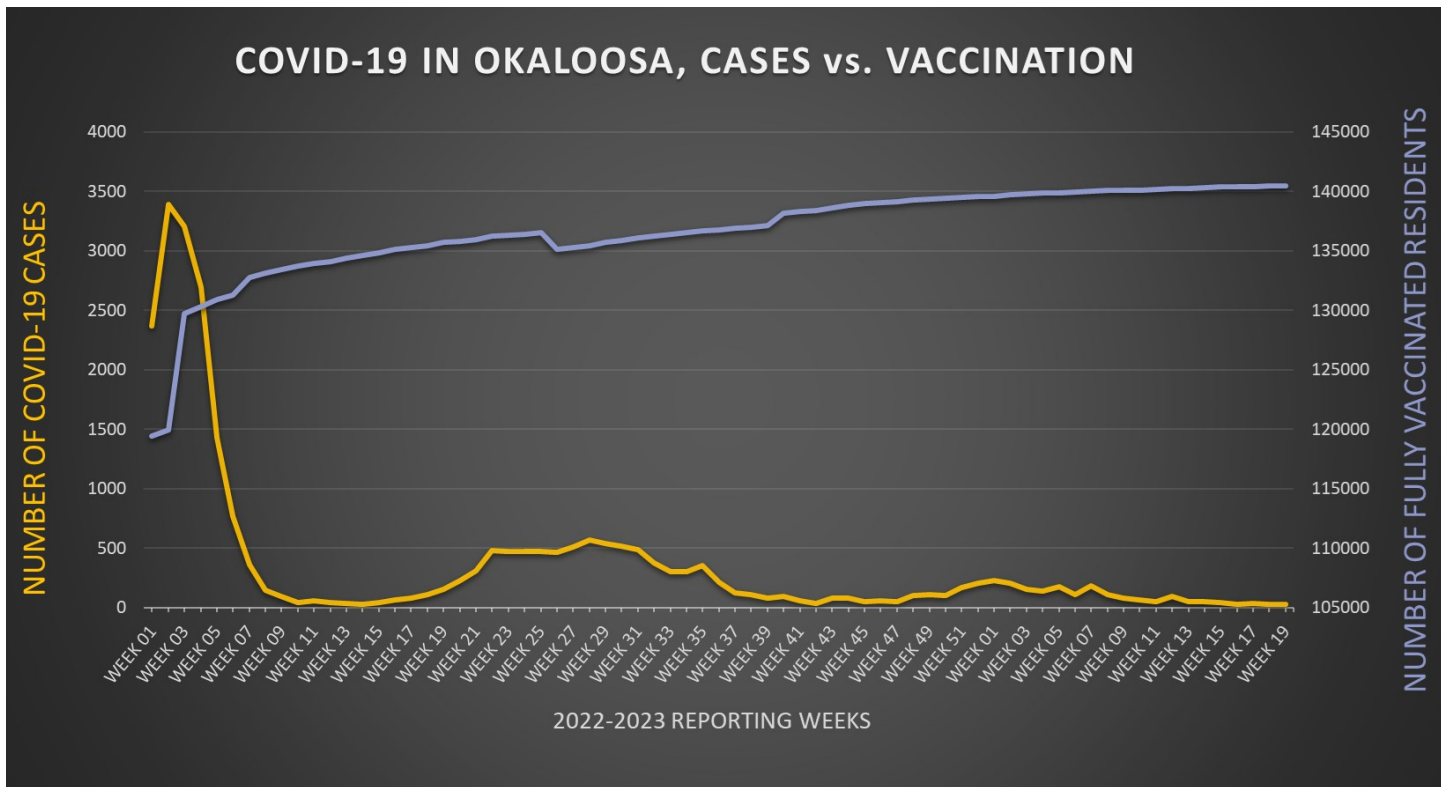
Low	<10	<5.0%
Moderate	10-49	5.0 - 7.9%
Substantial	50-99	8.0 - 9.9%
High	>100	>10.0%

With the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023, CDC no longer receives data needed to publish Community Transmission levels for SARS-CoV-2. However, DOH-Okaloosa will continue to report local numbers.



# COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 19: May 7 - May 13



**Figure 1:** Cumulative number of fully vaccinated Okaloosa residents as compared to COVID-19 cases per week. Data reported through previous Sunday.  
Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

Week 19 Review		Difference from Wk18
Resident Case Count	29	+1
Resident Case Count per 100K Population	13.8	+0.5
Average Resident Cases per Day	4.1	+0.1
Percent Positivity	7.1%	+2.0

Data Source: Merlin Database

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) provides the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with county COVID-19 data, including deaths.

Please visit the [COVID-19 Community Profile Report](#) webpage to obtain death data by downloading the most recent excel file and locating Okaloosa on the 'Counties' tab.

For questions related to COVID-19 death data, please contact the FDOH Office of Communications at 850-245-4111 or [NewsMedia@flhealth.gov](mailto:NewsMedia@flhealth.gov).

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS		
Fully-Vaccinated Groups	OKALOOSA	US
% of Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	71.2%	73.5%
% of Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	77.0%	77.6%
% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	79.8%	79.1%
% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	95.0%	94.3%

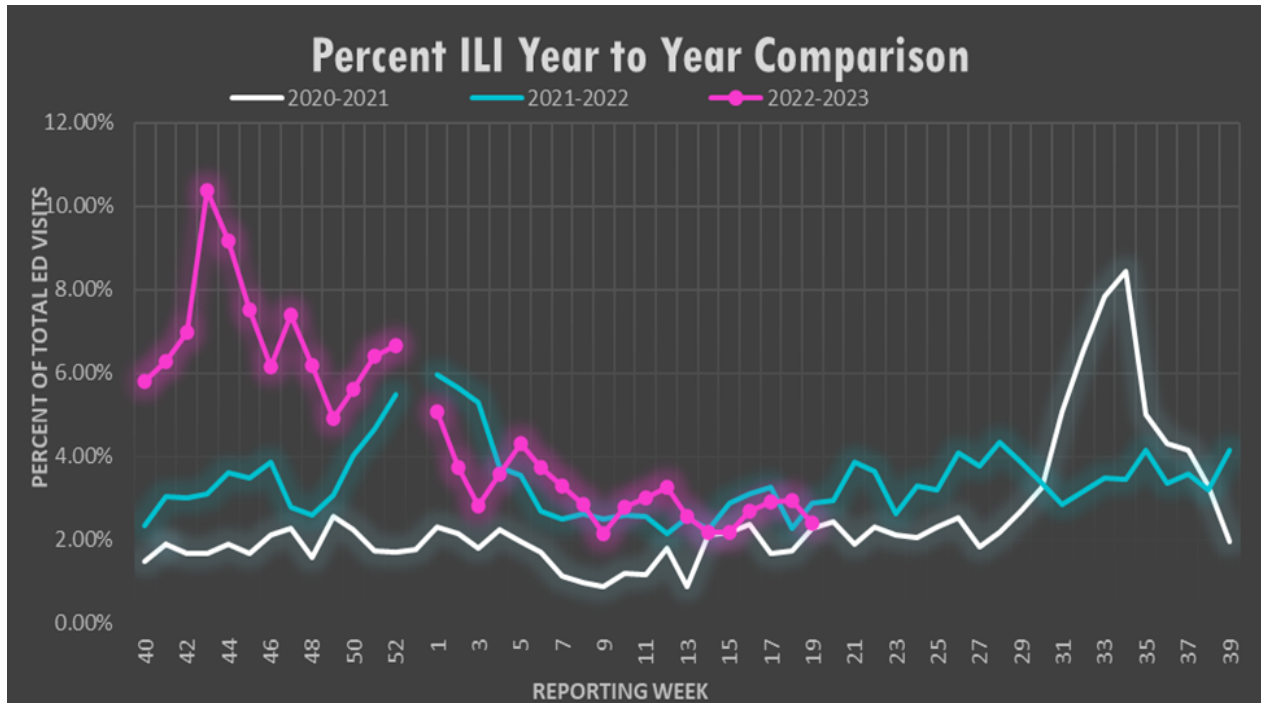
Data reported through previous Sunday. Data Source: CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)



# Influenza-Like Illness

Week 19: May 7 - May 13

**Influenza-like Illness (ILI)** is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.



**Figure 2:** Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa county for the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 influenza seasons by week. Data source: ESSENCE

**ANALYSIS:** During Week 19, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported a decrease in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County decreased this week (2.93% during Week 18 to 2.42% during Week 19). Flu partners reported 1 positive rapid flu test this week (1 Influenza A). There have been no specimens submitted to the state lab over the past three weeks. There were no ILI admissions or deaths reported by flu partners this week. No outbreaks have been reported in the past 3 weeks. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 19 is lower than that of Week 19 last year.

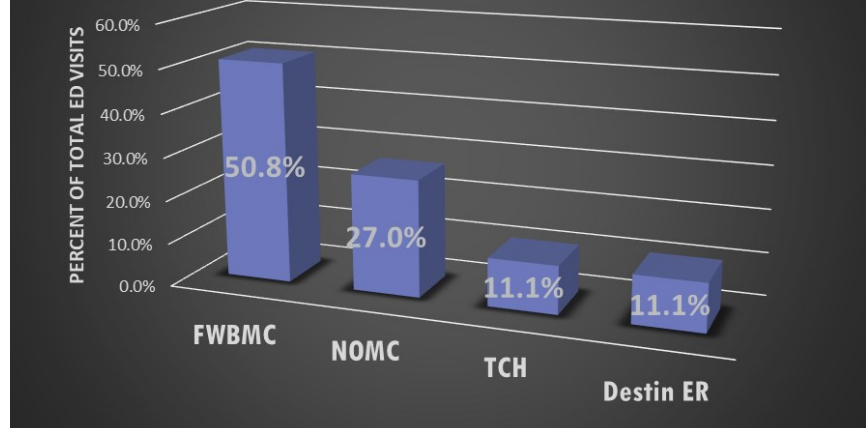
*Note:* Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers. Data Source: ESSENCE

## % ILI by Age Group Week 19, 2023

Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	16	177	9.04%
5-19	21	324	6.48%
20-34	12	544	2.21%
35-54	7	631	1.11%
55-74	6	635	0.94%
75+	1	294	0.34%

Data Source: ESSENCE

## % of Total ILI Visits by Facility Week 19, 2023



**Figure 3:** Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=63). Data source: ESSENCE



# Syndromic Surveillance

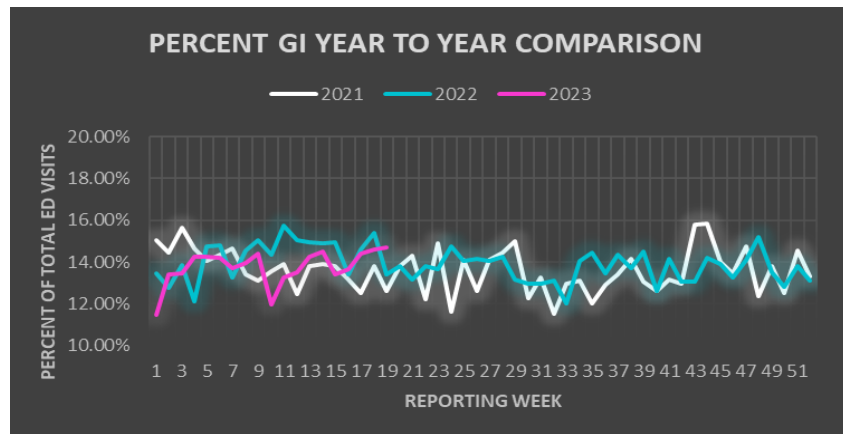
Week 19: May 7 - May 13

## Gastro-intestinal Illness (GI)

Figure 4:

Annual comparison for the percent of GI for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

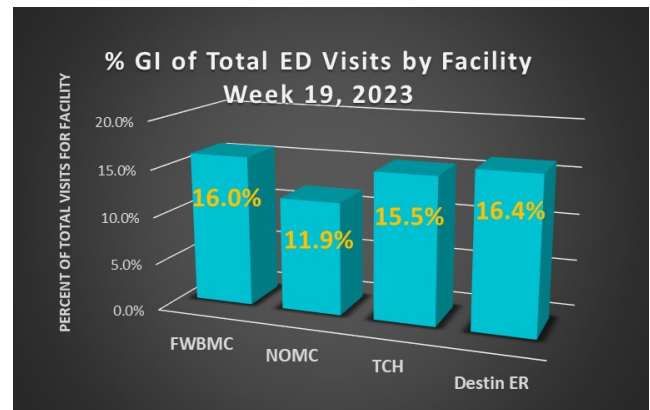


% GI by Age Group Week 19, 2023			
Age Range	GI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total GI Visits
0-4	34	177	19.21%
5-19	57	324	17.59%
20-34	78	544	14.34%
35-54	99	631	15.69%
55-74	81	365	12.76%
75+	34	294	11.56%

Figure 5:

Hospital emergency room visits due to GI illness stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE

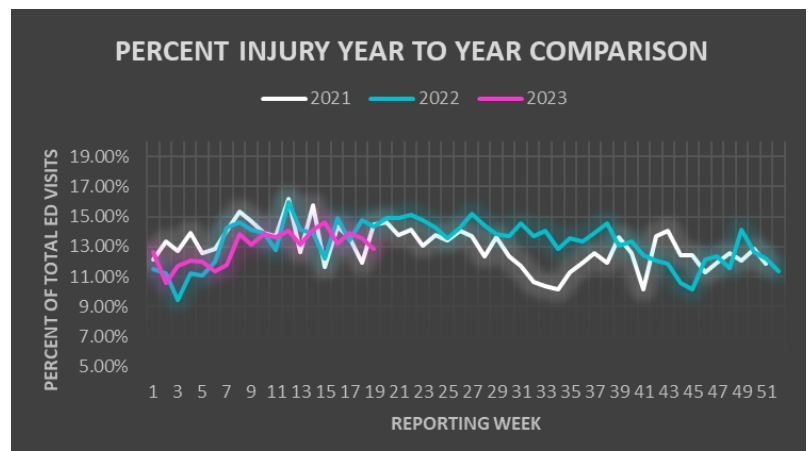


## Injury

Figure 6:

Annual comparison for the percent of Injury for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

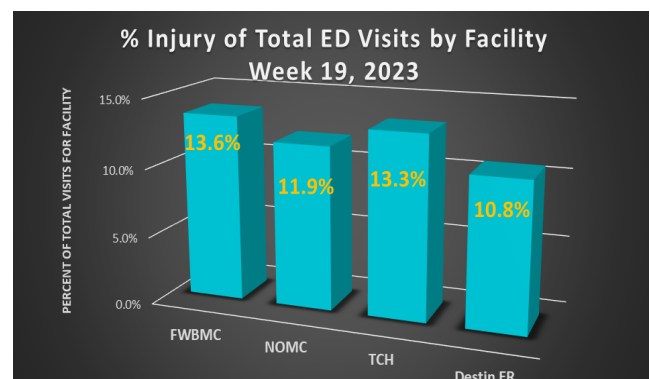


% Injury by Age Group Week 19, 2023			
Age Range	Injury Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total Injury Visits
0-4	25	177	14.12%
5-19	54	324	16.67%
20-34	63	544	11.58%
35-54	72	631	11.41%
55-74	74	635	11.65%
75+	46	294	15.65%

Figure 7:

Hospital emergency room visits due to Injury stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE



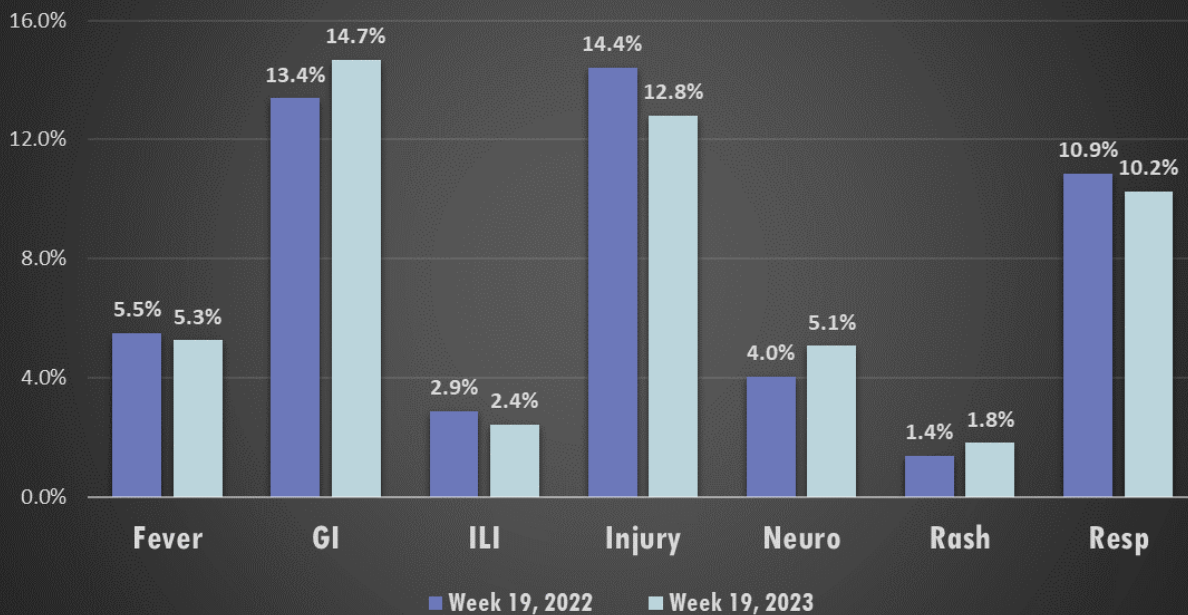




# Syndromic Surveillance

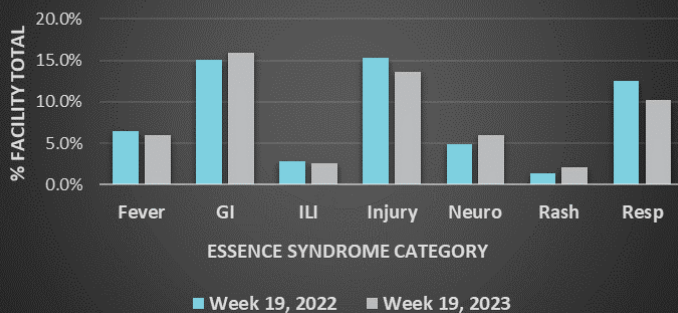
Week 19: May 7 - May 13

## Total ED Visits by Syndrome



**Figure 8:** Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2023 Week 19 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2607). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%. Data source: ESSENCE

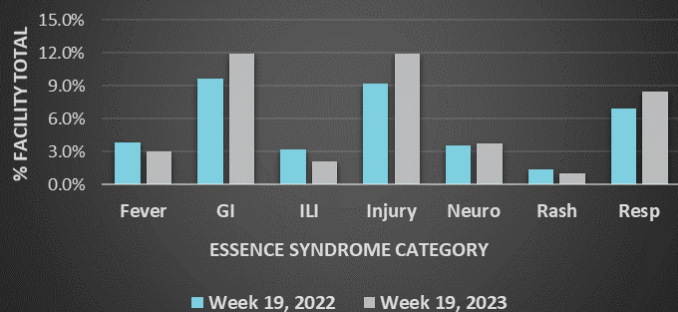
## Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



## Week 19- Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	27
5-19	GI	29
20-34	GI	38
35-54	GI	51
55-74	INJURY	38
75+	GI, INJURY, RESP	18,18,18

## North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



## Week 19- North Okaloosa Medical Center

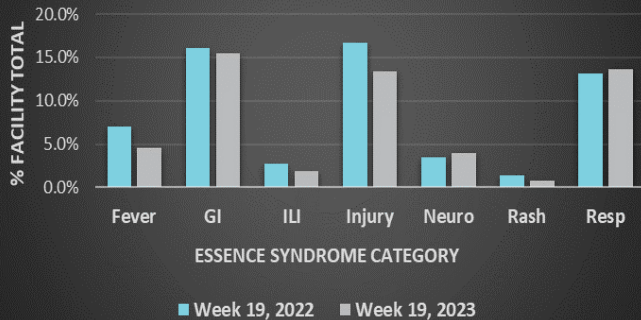
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	15
5-19	GI	18
20-34	GI	22
35-54	GI	22
55-74	RESP	26
75+	INJURY	16



# Syndromic Surveillance

Week 19: May 7 - May 13

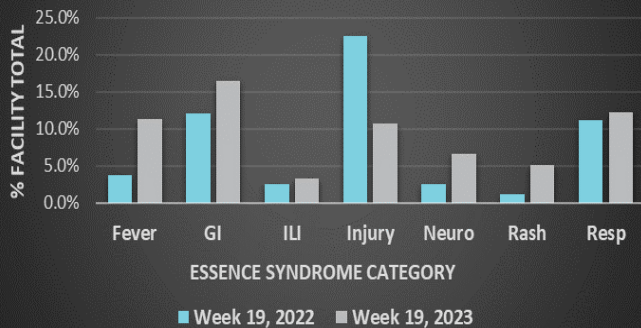
## Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



## Week 19 - Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER, RASH	2, 2
5-19	INJURY	13
20-34	GI	16
35-54	GI	15
55-74	GI	14
75+	INJURY	10

## DestinER ED Presentations



## Week 19 - Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	8
5-19	FEVER, INJURY	5, 5
20-34	INJURY, NEURO, RESP	4, 4, 4
35-54	GI	11
55-74	GI	10
75+	NEURO	2

## Week 19—Okaloosa County

Age Group	Top Syndrome
0-4	FEVER
5-19	GI
20-34	GI
35-54	GI
55-74	GI
75+	INJURY



Data Source: ESSENCE